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III. MR. HALLETT



SIXTY-SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
Health of Stafford

Boro.

J. T. MACNAB

M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1935

STAFFORD :
ALLISON & BOWEN, LTD., 19 GREENGATE STREET





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STAFF

OF THE

Public Health Department

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
Medical Superintendent Infectious Diseases Hospital, and
Medical Officer Infant Welfare Centre.

*J. T. MACNAB, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), D.P.H.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR,
Under Diseases of Animals Acts,
W. G. THOMSON, M.R.C.V.S.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,
Lodging-house Inspector, Inspector under the Canal Boats
Act, and Inspector under the Housing Consolidated Regula-
tions, 1925 and 1932.

*JAMES H. DRURY, Cert. R. San., Inst.,
and Certificated Meat Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR,
*I. O. WILLIAMS, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
and Certificated Meat Inspector.

PUPIL IN SANITARY INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT,
S. A. GREGORY.

HEALTH VISITORS,
and Assistant Sanitary Inspectors,
*MISS C. E. SUFFIELD, H.V. & S.I. Certs. R.S.I.,
Cert. Cent. Midwives Board.
*MISS E. E. BRIGGS, S.R.N., H.V. & M. & C. W. Certs.
R.S.I., Cert. Cent. Midwives Board.

MATRON OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
MRS. IDA HOME.

CLERK,
R. FOWELL.

*Salaries contributed to under Public Health Acts or by
Exchequer Grants. All are whole-time Officers, except the
Veterinary Inspector, and that the Health Visitors devote a
portion of their time to work under the Staffordshire, Wol-
verhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis,

5, MARTIN STREET,
STAFFORD.

28th April, 1936.

**To the Chairman and Members of
the Public Health Committee.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Sixty-second Annual Report on the health of Stafford.

It is drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1492, dated 18th October, 1935.

The healthiness of the year is shown, not only by the comparative freedom from infectious disease and the low death rate, but by the figures for infantile mortality and Tuberculosis, which are the best so far recorded, and compare very favourably with those for towns of similar size. The absence of any maternal deaths and of cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum is also satisfactory.

During 1935, steps have been taken to extend the usefulness of the Royal Brine Baths in the treatment of Rheumatic conditions, and preliminary arrangements have been made to place the ante-natal care of expectant mothers under their own doctors.

The survey under the new Housing Act will, I hope, focus attention on the question of the worst cases of overcrowding, the most serious problem remaining to be dealt with in this direction.

I have now to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all members of the Committee (past and present) my grateful thanks for all your kindness to me during the fourteen years I have been your Medical Officer, and in wishing my successor every happiness I cannot do better than wish him a continuance of that kindness.

In the preparation of this report I have again received great help from Mr. Drury and Miss Suffield, and in thanking them I wish to express how much I have owed to them and to the other members of the staff for their loyal and willing co-operation during the whole of the time I have been in Stafford.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MACNAB.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area of Borough	5,089 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (1935)	30,970
Density of population or number of persons per acre (1935)	6.1
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935) accord- ing to Rate Books	7,390
Rateable value (31st March, 1935)	£179,061
Sum represented by a penny rate	£706

Social Conditions.

Mr. I. C. Webley, Manager of the Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied me with the following information :—

“ The chief industries and occupations in the town of Stafford are :—

	Males.	Females.
(a) Electrical Engineering—approximate numbers employed	2,200	1,000
(b) Manufacture of ladies' boots and shoes—approximate numbers employed	1,200	1,500
(c) Internal Combustion Engine Manufacture—approximate numbers employed	600	70
(d) Locomotive Engineering and General Engineering—approximate numbers employed	600	20
(e) Emery Wheel manufacture—approximate numbers employed	500	100
(f) Wood Heel Manufacture—approximate numbers employed	150	175
(g) Distributive Trades—approximate numbers employed	900	600
(h) Building Trade—approximate numbers employed	700	30
(i) Local Government Service—approximate numbers employed (estimate only)	350	60

“ The total insurable population is approximately 14,300.

“ During 1935 there was continued improvement in the local employment situation and the numbers of workpeople registered as unemployed showed an appreciable decrease week by week over the corresponding figures for 1934. On the 23rd December, 1935, the number registered as unemployed reached the lowest figure for several years ; on that date there were 522 workpeople registered as unemployed which represents a percentage of 3.65% of the insured population. On the same date the percentage unemployment for the whole country was 14.2%. On the 17th December, 1934, there were 968 workpeople unemployed and for that year the peak figure was 1,763 whereas for 1935 the peak figure was 1,263. The employment position in all the local industries may be regarded as very satisfactory.”

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

POPULATION.—The Registrar-General's estimate again suggests a loss by emigration from the town, this time of 166 ; so that instead of gaining 117 by excess of births over deaths we have actually 49 less than the year before.

As far as can be judged by the figures already available from the overcrowding surveys, Stafford's percentage of overcrowding is about the average, in spite of the large number of new houses that are being built, so that I doubt if we are really diminishing in numbers.

LIVE	Total	M.	F.	
BIRTHS : Legitimate	422	214	208	
429 Illegitimate	7	4	3	Birth Rate 13.8

The rate for the 140 Smaller Towns of England and Wales, of which Stafford is one, is 14.8. Last year Stafford's birth rate was 12.9 with 394 births.

STILL	Total	M.	F.	
BIRTHS : Legitimate	14	9	5	Rate per 1000 total births (live and still), 32
14 Illegitimate	0	0	0	

Total M. F.

DEATHS : 312 162 150 Recorded Death Rate 10.1.

The death rate is affected by the age and sex of the population concerned, being higher among an elderly population and also, to some extent, among males as compared with females of similar age.

The Registrar-General supplies a “ Comparability Factor ” to each district based on the age and sex of its population as shown at the last Census. When the recorded

death rate of a town is multiplied by this factor the corrected death rate is obtained. This is truly comparable with the death rate of any town similarly treated.

The factor for correction for Stafford is 1.02 and the corrected **Death Rate is 10.3**, compared with 11.2 for the 140 Smaller Towns and 11.1 for Stafford last year.

The causes of death are shown below:—

Causes of death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—
Measles	1	1	2
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	1	1
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Influenza	1	3	4
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	8	16
Other tuberculous diseases	4	1	5
Syphilis	4	—	4
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	1	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease	16	19	35
Diabetes	3	4	7
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	13	13	26
Heart disease	39	33	72
Aneurysm	1	—	1
Other circulatory diseases	11	11	22
Bronchitis	6	5	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	9	15
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3
Peptic ulcer	1	1	2
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—
Other diseases of liver, etc.....	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	4	4	8
Acute and chronic nephritis	7	2	9
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	4	6	10
Senility	3	12	15
Suicide	3	2	5
Other violence	9	1	10
Other defined diseases	12	12	24
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	1	2
Total deaths	162	150	312

There are 21 fewer deaths than last year, the chief reductions being Bronchitis and Pneumonia (12 less), Cancer (7 less), and Respiratory Tuberculosis (5 less). There are no other outstanding changes.

Of the 35 Cancer deaths, the males included 12 in whom the disease involved the digestive system, while 9 of the female deaths were due to disease of the sex organs.

114, or 36.5%, of the deaths took place at ages of 70 years and over.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—Four deaths were due to zymotic diseases, giving a rate of 0.13 as compared with 0.19, the average for the preceding ten years.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	2
„ „ Whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	...	...	...	0

Total Zymotic Deaths, 4.

Death rates from the main causes are :—

Heart disease (72 cases)	...	...	...	2.37
Cancer (35 cases)	...	...	...	1.15
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc. (29 cases)	...	...	...	0.96
Cerebral hæmorrhage (26 cases)	...	...	...	0.86
Tuberculosis (all forms) (21 cases)	...	...	...	0.69
Old age (15 cases)	...	...	...	0.49
Violence (15 cases)	...	...	...	0.49
				7.01
All other causes (99 cases)	...	...	...	3.26
				10.27
Total	...	...	...	10.27

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY } { England and Wales, 121 County Boroughs and Great Towns,
in the year, 1935. } and 140 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales and Stafford have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1935, but those for London and the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1934.

	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.				
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes.	Typhoid & Paratyph'd fevers.	Small-pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Certified by Coroner after P.M.	No Inquest Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	14.7	0.62	11.7	0.00	—	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.18	0.52	5.7	57	Not available					
London	13.3	0.52	11.4	0.00	—	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.11	0.51	11.2	58						
121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.8	0.68	11.8	0.00	—	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.09	0.16	0.45	7.9	62						
40 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	14.8	0.64	11.2	0.00	—	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.17	0.41	3.8	55						
STAFFORD	13.8	0.45	10.3	0	—	0.06	0	0.03	0.03	0.13	0.49	0	37	90.6	5.6	3.0	0.8		

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows: { (per 1,000 Live Births ... Puerperal Sepsis. Others. Total.
1.68 2.42 4.10
" " Total Births 1.61 2.32 3.93

There were no maternal deaths in Stafford during the year.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth :—

There were no deaths from these causes.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—There were 16 deaths (9 males and 7 females), none of whom were illegitimate children.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				0

The following table gives the infant mortality for 1935, and for the previous ten years :—

Year	Births	Under one month.		Under one year.	
		Deaths	Rate per 1000 births	Deaths	Rate per 1000 births
1925	486	10	21	25	51
1926	481	16	33	29	60
1927	455	12	26	22	48
1928	434	15	35	26	60
1929	446	13	29	28	63
1930	411	9	22	22	53
1931	348	12	34	22	63
1932	408	18	44	27	66
1933	383	16	42	23	60
1934	394	13	33	20	51
Average for 10 yrs.	424.6	13.4	31.5	24.4	57.5
1935	429	8	19	16	37

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Tuberculous meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	5
Injury at birth	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformation	—	1	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	5
Premature birth	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumococcal peritonitis.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL	4	2	2	—	8	3	1	2	2	16

The infant mortality rate of 37 is considerably the lowest yet recorded in the Borough ; the previous record being 48 in 1927.

STILL-BIRTHS.—Fourteen still-births took place, giving a rate of 32 per 1,000 births (including still-born). This is a considerable drop from last year when the rate was 48. Nine were males and five females. The following particulars were ascertained :—

Breech birth	...	...	...	...	...	3
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	2
Placenta prævia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malpresentation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal ill-health	...	...	...	...	...	1
No cause ascertained	...	...	...	...	...	6

Eight of the mothers had been attended by their own doctors during pregnancy. One of these had attended the Ante-natal Centre.

DEATHS OF CHILDREN FROM 1 TO 5 YEARS.—There were ten deaths at these ages. Three were due to Pneumonia, two to Measles, the others to Diphtheria, Tuberculous meningitis, Intussusception, Tonsillectomy, and Drowning.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Home Nursing.

The general nursing of the district is provided by the Stafford District Nurses' Society, Tipping Street. The Society also provides nursing for cases of Measles and other ailments of the young when requested by the Medical Officer of Health to do so, and receives an annual grant from the Council for this. During the year 36 cases were nursed under this arrangement, and 454 visits were made to them.

Midwives.

The Council does not employ or subsidise practising midwives. Eleven midwives practised in the Borough during 1935, all of whom were certificated.

Laboratory Facilities.

The examination or analysis of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk, and foodstuffs is carried out by the County Bacteriologist and the County Analyst at the County Laboratories, Martin Street, Stafford.

Adoptive Acts, etc., in Force in the District.

LOCAL ACTS.

Stafford Corporation Acts of 1876, 1880, and 1896.

ADOPTIVE ACTS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.	Date of Adoption.
Local Government Act, 1858	1872
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	1891
Baths and Wash-houses Acts	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ...	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II., III. (except Sections 39 to 42 inclusive), IV., V., VI., and X.	1923
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II (except Section 34) III., IV., and V.	1926

BYE-LAWS.	Date of Adoption or revision.
Water Closets (made under Stafford Corporation Act, 1896)	1897
Offensive Trades	1923
Slaughterhouses	1927
Common Lodging Houses	1927
Prevention of Nuisances	1928
New Streets and Buildings and the Drainage of Existing Buildings	1930

Hospitals.

STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY, FOREGATE STREET.—General medical and surgical wards. This hospital admits children as well as adults. Ear, nose, and throat cases are treated as well as certain cases of difficult labour, puerperal fever and pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, etc. The only cases excluded are “infectious diseases or cases of fever including typhoid and phthisis.” The hospital has an up-to-date operating theatre and the following special departments :—X-ray, dental, ear, nose and throat, and massage.

MARSTON ROAD INSTITUTION.—This was the Poor Law Infirmary, and is used by the chronic sick.

COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL, GAOL SQUARE.—This has accommodation for 1,100 patients, and is under the control of the County Mental Hospitals Board.

COTON HILL MENTAL HOSPITAL, WESTON ROAD.—For private patients, and has accommodation for 150.

BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL, TITHE BARN ROAD.—Provided jointly by the Stafford Borough Council and the Stafford Rural District Council for the treatment of Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric fever.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL, MOXLEY.—The Corporation are members of the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital Board, and are thus part proprietors of the Small Pox Hospital at Moxley, to which any cases of the disease are admitted.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Local cases are treated in the institutions provided by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS.—Nil.

ORTHOPÆDIC.—Cases requiring operative treatment are admitted to the hospitals at Hartshill and Standon Hall.

Institution for Homeless Children.

The Cottage Homes in Stone Road have accommodation for 60 children.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is maintained by the Council and is available for the town and surrounding district. It is housed in a local garage, and is used for general ambulance work, also for infectious cases (subject to disinfection). Applications should be made to the Police, Stafford (Tel. No. 1, Stafford).

No complaint has reached me of any inadequacy of this service, but a more ideal arrangement would provide an ambulance housed at the Isolation Hospital for infectious cases, and another for general work housed, perhaps, in connection with the Fire Brigade service where it would be instantly available.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—At the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, provided by the Borough Council, and staffed by the Public Health Department, with assistance from the Guild of Social Welfare. This centre is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CENTRE.—At the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—For minor ailments, dental, ear, nose and throat, and ophthalmic. In Mill Bank. Provided by the County Education Committee.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.—In premises situated in Sandon Road. Provided by the Stafford Cripples' Centre. The arrangements under which Child Welfare cases are able to benefit from this are mentioned under Maternity and Child Welfare.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CLINIC.—Artificial light treatment is available at the General Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—In Mill Bank, provided by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—The County Council have now opened a clinic at the Staffordshire Infirmary. The other nearest clinics are those provided by the Stafford County Council at Wolverhampton and Stoke-on-Trent. Particulars can be obtained from the M.O.H. at 5, Martin Street.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

This continues to be entirely satisfactory, both as to quality and quantity, although the water level in the well fell so low during the recent droughts as to cause some anxiety.

In order to cope with the increasing demands on the supply, due to enlargement of the area and to the greater number of baths now in use, steps have been taken to provide another borehole. This will be situated in the same geological formation (pebble beds of the New Red Sandstone) as the present works, but at a sufficient distance from the existing well to rule out any likelihood of pumping operations on the new site affecting the yield of the existing well.

Reports on the water are obtained every three months from the County Analyst and the County Bacteriologist, and have always been entirely satisfactory. The following are the latest reports :—

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.				Parts per
				100,000
Total solid matter dried at 212°F	...	...	...	33.00
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	0.0025
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.23

Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	6.2
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	...	...	...	...	...	0.009
Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	Clear
Injurious metallic contamination	...	...	...	...	...	None
Hardness before boiling	...	...	...	...	...	12.72
Hardness after boiling	...	...	...	...	...	6.70°
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	...	6.02°

“ ‘This water maintains its excellent quality.’ ”

MINERAL ANALYSIS.

	Parts per
	100,000
Calcium Carbonate	12.80
Calcium Sulphate	6.51
Magnesium Chloride	2.14
Chlorine (calculated to Sodium Chloride)	7.58
Sodium Nitrate	1.39
Silica	0.75
	<hr/>
	31.17

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

	Organisms
	per ml.
On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C	8
On nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20—22°C	13
Coli aerogenes content (presumptive coli)—None per 100 ml. after 48 hours incubation at 37°C.	

“ ‘The persistent absence of coliform organisms from this water is very striking.’ ”

There are still twenty-four houses in the Borough which obtain their water supply from wells.

Samples of water were taken from a pump supplying three cottages at Moss Pit, and were found to be so polluted as to be unfit for use. Notices were served, and town water was laid on.

Swimming Bath.

This, which is owned by the Corporation, is recognised as one of the best in the Midlands. It is 80 feet long by 33 feet wide. The water is in constant circulation through an up-to-date filtration and chlorination plant. Daily records are kept of tests for free chlorine and alkalinity. Foot baths and showers are provided.

In the same building are the **Stafford Corporation Royal Brine Baths**, which provide excellent facilities for the treat-

ment of the various forms of Rheumatism under the supervision of the Honorary Consulting Physician, J. MacDonald Holmes, M.D., M.R.C.P. During the year a scheme was inaugurated under which patients from a large Hospitals' Contributory Scheme are provided with board and lodging together with the necessary treatment for an inclusive fee.

Rivers and Streams.

The water courses in the Borough have been kept under observation, and it has been found that the improvement with regard to pollution by oily substances has been maintained. A certain amount of pollution is unavoidable owing to the surface washings from streets, yards, and other places finding their way into the streams. The Inspectors deal with any cases of foul water discharging into surface drains which they discover during the course of their inspections.

The contamination of the river by brine still continues. It finds its way into the watercourses, particularly the Pearl Brook, and eventually empties into the river. This contamination has more than one source, the most serious being from the tips of waste salt chipped from the pans, etc., at Salt Works.

As in previous years analyses of water from the Sowe and Penk were made for the Standing Committee on Rivers Pollution in July and September.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following new sewers were completed during the year :—

BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY—

144 yards	9" dia.	sewage sewer—Greensome Lane.
456	„ 9" „	sewage sewer—Sandon Road.
530	„ 9" „	sewage sewer—Tixall Road.
53	„ 9" „	sewage sewer—Crescent Road.
132	„ 9" „	surface water sewer—Greensome Lane
507	„ 9" „	surface water sewer—Sandon Road.
30	„ 9" „	surface water sewer—Tillington Estate.
516	„ 9" „	surface water sewer—Eccleshall Road
20	„ 9" „	surface water sewer—St. John's Road

BY THE DEVELOPERS OF PRIVATE ESTATES—

476 yards	9" dia.	sewage sewer—Eastlands Estate.
30	„ 9" „	sewage sewer—The Crescent, Doxey.
530	„ 9" „	surface water sewer—Eastlands Estate.
93	„ 6" „	surface water sewer—The Crescent, Doxey

The drains of a large majority of the houses in the area added to the Borough in April, 1934, are not connected to the public sewer, but drain into cesspits or septic tanks. Unfortunately this system does not work satisfactorily. The difficulty is to get rid of the effluent from the tanks, which is frequently not purified to any appreciable extent; this is especially so in low-lying waterlogged ground. In some instances the effluent has been discharged into watercourses. There have been a number of complaints of nuisances arising from this practice.

The Weeping Cross portion of the added area will be sewered, but there are other areas with which it is not proposed to deal. There are also a number of houses in the older portions of the Borough which cannot be drained into a sewer.

Closet Accommodation.

There are approximately 6,975 water closets with flushing cisterns and 1,423 waste water closets in the Borough. The number of pail and midden privies is about 75, in outlying houses, of which 17 are of the vault type, the remainder being pail closets.

The waste water closets still continue to give a great deal of trouble. Out of 1,422 stoppages 952 were in waste water closets, a decrease of 77 over last year. When stoppages are found to be due to unsuitable articles choking the drain, notices are sent to the householders concerned calling on them to exercise more care so as to prevent a repetition of the trouble.

During the year 113 waste water closets were converted into pedestal W.C.s with flushing cisterns, an increase of 53 over the previous year. This is accounted for by the greater use made by property owners of the Corporation scheme under which a grant of 50s. is allowed towards the cost of approved conversions.

Scavenging.

During the year 140 notices have been served calling for the provision of sufficient galvanised iron receptacles for household refuse. None of these were to replace wooden tubs.

Since the commencement of the scheme for the abolition of uncovered wooden receptacles fifteen years ago 3,925 galvanised bins have been purchased from the Corporation, and in addition a considerable number have been obtained privately. The notices which are now being served are for the replacement of worn out galvanised receptacles.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Mr. J. H. Drury, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, presents the following table summarising the routine work of the year.

The scope and extent of this work continue to increase, owing not only to the advance of the town but also to the steady increase in Public Health legislation. Its importance and the part it plays in improving the health of the town have been pointed out in recent annual reports.

As in previous reports, the great majority of nuisances are remedied as the result of informal notices, which is very satisfactory.

	No. of		Notices.		Notices complied with.	
	Inspections	Defects	Informal 1	Statutory 2		
					1	2
Visits to dwelling-houses	2887	...	...	...	...	...
Houses requiring cleansing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Structural defects ...	127	166	60	8	46	4
Housing Acts	268	...	26	7	14	5
Lodging-houses	6	...	...	...	...	...
Factories & Work-shops	111	22	22	...	21	...
Dairies & Milkshops	123	3	3	...	3	...
Cowsheds	109	6	5	...	5	...
Bakehouses	43	4	4	...	4	...
Slaughterhouses	1321	2	2	...	2	...
Fried Fish Shops ...	56	8	7	...	7	...
Canal Boats .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits & want of receptacles for refuse.	312	159	140	9	125	8
Deposits of refuse & manure	11	5	5	...	5	...
Water Closets	356	185	69	6	48	4
House drainage defects	152	93	69	5	61	4
Water supply	7	...	...	...	...	...
Animals improperly kept	7	1	1	...	...	...
Offensive Trades other than Fried Fish Shops.....	51	3	3	...	3	...
Defective yard pavements	6	4	4	...	3	...
Other nuisances	18	10	9	...	8	...
Overcrowding	13	5	5	2	3	2
Closet stoppages cleared .....	...	1422	...	...	...	...
	5984	2098	434	37	358	27

Unwholesome food :—

Number of surrenders ...	...	...	...	...	690
Number of seizures ...	...	...	...	...	0
Condemned by Magistrate ...	...	...	...	...	0
Prosecutions for exposing for sale ...	...	...	...	...	0
Convictions for exposing for sale ...	...	...	...	...	0

Precautions against Infectious Disease :—

Lots of infected bedding disinfected or destroyed ...	121
Houses disinfected after infectious disease ...	139

Smoke Abatement.

During the year 40 fixed observations have been made of the smoke emitted from the various chimney stacks within the Borough in addition to general observations. Where necessary, letters have been sent or verbal cautions given.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	31
Retail Purveyors of Milk in the Borough	...					92
Retail Purveyors of Milk whose premises are outside the Borough	...	...	...	...		24
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...		3
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	29
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	37

Many of the producers of milk are also enumerated amongst the retailers.

There are no Bye-Laws in force in the Borough relating to houses let in lodgings or for tents, vans, sheds, etc., and there is no need for regulations in regard to underground sleeping rooms.

Offensive Trades.

There are 29 Offensive Trades on the Register, of which 24 are fried fish shops, and 107 visits have been made to these premises. The remainder consists of 1 fellmonger, 2 rag and bone merchants, and 2 gut scrapers.

The fish frying businesses have been carried on in a satisfactory manner, and no complaints have been received by the Department with regard to them.

The rag and bone business carried on in the centre of the town was again a cause of complaint in the hot weather. The nuisance at the railway sidings has now ceased as the bones are removed by road, but it is still liable to recur on the premises. On one occasion I found that the bones were not in proper containers. The occupier received a severe caution, and he provided a number of metal tins with close fitting covers in which to deposit the bones. After this, and with the return of cooler weather, the complaint of nuisance ceased for the time being.

Factory and Workshop Act.

INSPECTIONS.—69 inspections of Factories and 85 of Workshops and Workplaces were made. 26 defects were discovered, and action taken to have these remedied.

HOMEWORK.—Lists of outworkers were received as follows :—

Wearing Apparel (making)

(Once a year) 1 list relating to 9 workmen.

(Twice a year) 16 lists relating to 24 workmen.

Umbrellas (twice a year) 2 lists relating to 2 workmen.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.—The workshops on the register at the end of the year were :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	23
Boot-making and repairing	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	14
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cycle and motor repairing	...	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	48
						III

Miss Suffield, Health Visitor, in addition to her other duties, carried out inspections in 19 factories where women were employed, and reported 7 defects.

I.—INSPECTION,

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspection.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries) ...	69	8	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	82	—	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	3	—	—
Total	154	8	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.*				
Want of cleanliness	5	5	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	1	1	—	—
SANITARY ACCOMMODA- TION.				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or de- fective	19	18	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORK- SHOP ACTS.				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	26	25	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Rag Gatherers.

Observations continue to be made on rag gatherers, and an instance of exchanging rags for toys being noticed, the Inspector, knowing the difficulty caused in previous cases by the culprits giving false addresses, followed them up by visiting a neighbouring town, and with the assistance of the Sanitary Inspector for that town identified the men concerned at their caravan. Proceedings were ordered by the Public Health Committee, and the offenders were fined £1 each and costs.

Common Lodging Houses.

The number of Common Lodging Houses on the Register remains at three, the same as last year. One of these consists

of two cottages and is not much used, one has been a large dwelling-house, and the other factory premises which have been adapted. They have been inspected, and found to be kept in fair condition—taking into account the nature of the premises.

Cinemas, etc.

Visits have been paid to these premises, and their sanitary condition found to be satisfactory.

Shops.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector has been appointed to carry out the sanitary provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, the Shop Inspector having agreed to report any cases of shops where it appears to him that the sanitary arrangements are not satisfactory. In consequence, two such cases have been dealt with.

Schools.

A sanitary survey of each school is made three times a year by the School Medical Inspector, whose reports are considered by the Education Authority, any necessary action being taken.

When absence from school is suspected to be due to illness, duplicate reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Deputy School Medical Officer and to the M.O.H. Where necessary the School Nurse visits the home to investigate.

Convalescents from infectious disease and contacts, who have been excluded from school, are reported to the Deputy School Medical Officer by the M.O.H., and are seen by one of the Medical Inspectors at the School Clinic before being allowed to return to school.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year.

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	...	...	...	...	207
	(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	24
	(ii)	By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	0
	(iii)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	183
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts :					
	(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	24
	(ii)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	0

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1003
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2133
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	138
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	268
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	70
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	447

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	345
--	--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	28
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	20
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	13
D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

Undertakings agreed to :—

2 to 9, Plant's Court. To be closed as they become vacant.

2, 3 and 4, White Lion Street. Nos. 2 and 3 to be demolished within twelve months. No 4 to be reconstructed.

Police Court proceedings had to be instituted against the occupier of a caravan used for living purposes for a considerable time. This van measured 10 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 6 feet high, and was occupied by a man, wife, and four children aged 11, 3 and 2 years, and baby 4 weeks old. The magistrates granted an order that the occupants should remove from the caravan, and that it should not be used for human habitation within the said Borough of Stafford. The family then agreed to remove to a Corporation house.

The Housing Act of 1935 has for the first time laid down a legal standard limiting the amount of overcrowding to be permitted in dwellinghouses. The survey carried out under the Act disclosed the fact that 178 or 2.4% of 7,358 houses were overcrowded. All houses up to and including those of a rateable value of £30 a year were visited.

The standard of the Act is a low one, and is based on the number of rooms in the house, some of which are not bedrooms. It is, therefore, important that these cases should be relieved as soon as possible, as by doing so the worst cases in need of houses will receive attention. This work should, in my opinion, take precedence over any waiting lists or other means of allotting houses, especially as so much has been said about the lowness of the standard.

The standard required for re-housing, which is based on the number and size of bedrooms, is on a much more generous

scale, and on analysis of the overcrowded houses the following provision is found to be necessary for the larger families—2 houses with 7 bedrooms each, 15 with 6 bedrooms, and 61 with 5 bedrooms. The number of lodgers in these houses is so small as to have little effect on the problem. It is suggested that the 17 families in the first two groups could best be housed by securing for them existing large houses which are at present occupied by smaller families; while the remaining 61 could be housed in new dwellings so constructed that at a later date each could be converted into two houses. If these proposals were carried out, the houses so emptied would go a long way to solving the rest of the overcrowding problem.

Private enterprise has continued to be very active, and has contributed no less than 183 houses during the year, most of which are, however, not at present available for letting.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 31 cowkeepers and 92 milk sellers registered within the Borough. In addition, the names of 24 persons who reside outside and retail milk inside the Borough are on the Register. This is a reduction of 15 compared with the previous year. 109 visits were paid to the cowsheds and 123 to the milkshops; in each case the occupier's attention was called to the requirements as to cleansing and linewashing. 40 of the milk sellers are registered only for the sale of sterilized milk in sealed bottles.

The big drop in the number of persons who reside outside the Borough and retail milk inside the Borough was brought about by the revision of the Register. A letter was sent to each of such retailers enclosing a stamped post-card for reply, which disclosed that 17 had discontinued the retailing of milk in the Borough.

The improvement shown with regard to the cleanliness of the cows and sheds during the previous twelve months has been maintained, although conditions are not by any means perfect. A satisfactory feature is the increase in the number of milk producers who have installed sterilizing apparatus, of whom there are now seven. The need for the greatest attention to details in the production and handling of milk to ensure its cleanliness is continually being reiterated on the occasion of the inspectors' visits.

DESIGNATED MILKS.—Four supplies of Grade A. Milk and one of Grade A. Tuberculin-tested Milk are on sale in the

town by motor delivery. There are also four retail shops where this milk is sold.

The Corporation give their support and encouragement to this purer milk supply by restricting their contracts for the Isolation Hospital and Child Welfare Centre to Grade A. Milk.

At the present time Grade A. Tuberculin-tested Milk is being supplied to all cases by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli is carried out by the County Council. The following results were obtained from milk on sale in the Borough:—

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory due to			
			Coli-form bacilli	Count	Col. Bac. and Count	Tuberculous
Grade A and Grade A (T.T.) ...	32	28	2	0	0	2
Ordinary Milks ...	56	45	1	2	1	8*

* One sample also included under Coliform bacilli.

Meat.

The total amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 42 tons 15½ cwts., from 1,080 carcasses, classified as follows:—Oxen, 260; sheep, 64; pigs, 727; calves, 29. In 796 cases the reason for condemnation was tuberculous disease in various forms.

As in previous years by far the greater proportion of the meat was examined at one large slaughterhouse to which doubtful carcasses are sent from the surrounding district for disposal. There is again an increase both in the number of animals found to be unsound and the amount of meat condemned. This is due to the larger number of pigs dealt with, as these are very liable to local tubercular infection of the neck glands, there being a fall in the other groups of animals. The oxen class includes a number of dairy cows found by the County Veterinary Inspectors to be affected with tuberculosis. This important work takes up a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time, both during the day and in the evenings.

The reduction in the number of slaughterhouses has been of considerable assistance in making possible a more efficient inspection of the animals slaughtered in the town.

Classification of Slaughterhouses.

		In 1920.	In Jan., 1935.	In Dec., 1935.
Registered	.....	11	2	2
Licensed	.....	11	9	9
		—	—	—
		22	11	11
		—	—	—

The licence of one slaughterhouse was not renewed at the end of the year, and it is now disused.

This completes the programme of the Public Health Committee for the reduction of the number of private slaughterhouses in the borough. The most unsatisfactory slaughterhouses are now those classed as Registered, and as the law on the matter stands they cannot be closed.

Other Foods.

Regular inspections have been made of the foodstuffs exposed for sale in the Market Hall, and they were found to be in sound condition.

135 lbs. of fresh fruit and 34 tins of fruit were condemned as unfit for human food after inspection at the request of the owners.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

This Act is administered by the County Council, but, by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, I am able to include the results of the examination of the samples taken in the Borough during 1935.

Article	Number Submitted	Genuine	Adulter- ated
Milk—Grade A. (T.T.)	3	3	—
„ Grade A.	6	6	—
„ Sterilized	—	—	—
„ Ordinary	44	43	I*
Butter	3	3	—
Tea	6	6	—
Lard	3	3	—
Apricot Jam	I	I	—
Mincemeat	4	4	—
Arrowroot	I	I	—
Ground Rice	5	5	—
Semolina	4	4	—
Ground Almonds	I	I	—
Pearl Barley	I	I	—
Ground Ginger	I	I	—
Malt Vinegar	5	5	—
Olive Oil	2	2	—
Acid Drops	I	I	—
Flour, Self Raising	I	I	—
Oatmeal	I	I	—
Castor Oil	I	I	—
Glycerine	I	I	—
Honey	I	I	—
Plum Pudding	I	I	—
Ideal Milk	I	I	—
Total	98	97	I

* Deficient in fat due to non-stirring. Retailer cautioned.

Ice Cream Shops.

There are 13 premises on which ice cream is made in the Borough. 15 inspections have been made. The majority of these places are small shops, and the ice cream is made during the summer months. The utensils and premises were kept in a clean condition.

Nothing further has been done with regard to the compulsory registration of makers of ice cream.

Infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the 52 weeks from 30th December, 1934, to 28th December, 1935.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Removed to Isolation Hospital.
Scarlet fever Cases Deaths.....	82 —	— —	— —	2 —	2 —	5 —	38 —	14 —	8 —	9 —	4 —	— —	— —	70 —
Diphtheria Cases Deaths ...	7 1	— —	1 —	1 1	— —	— —	3 —	— —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	7 1
Enteric Fever Cases (including Paratyphoid) Deaths ...	3 —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —
Puerperal fever Cases Deaths ...	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Puerperal pyrexia Cases Deaths ...	8 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	6 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
Pneumonia Cases Deaths ...	29 3	4 —	2 —	4 —	1 —	1 —	3 —	2 —	1 —	5 —	2 —	2 2	2 1	— —
Erysipelas Cases Deaths ...	8 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	1 —	4 —	1 —	— —
Cerebro-spinal fever... Cases Deaths.....	2 1	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1* 1*	— —	— —	— —	— —

*Rugeley case in General Infirmary.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Except for the continued presence of mild Scarlet fever, a few cases of which occurred during each month of the year, and an outbreak of Measles in the first six months, the town has remained very free from infectious disease.

VACCINATION STATISTICS.—The following figures for 1934 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union Area :—

Births registered	...	...	...	...	528
Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	141	
Insusceptible	...	...	...	3	
Exemptions	...	...	...	353	
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	20	
Removed	...	...	...	11	

					528

Scarlet Fever.

There were eighty-two cases, all of the prevailing mild type, and all recovered.

Scarlet fever streptococcus antitoxin was used in cases coming under treatment in the early stages, particularly the younger children, and was followed by a rapid return to normal temperature with disappearance of rash, sore throat, etc. Complications were few and not of a serious nature.

It has not been thought wise to discharge any patients from hospital under four weeks from the onset, but this has been the usual period for uncomplicated cases. Patients discharged earlier than this are, I consider, more likely to develop swollen glands or some other condition bad for themselves and liable to infect others. As far as possible, all cases, however mild, are removed to hospital, as the risk of infection and complications such as nephritis is present in all.

Three houses had three cases, one two, the others were single cases. There were three "return" cases.

The infected houses had 0.95 rooms per person, as compared with 1.24, the Census figure for the town as a whole.

Case rate per 1,000 living, for Stafford 2.65 ; for England and Wales 2.96.

Diphtheria.

Only seven cases occurred. There was one death in a child aged two years.

The infected houses had only 1.0 rooms per person.

Case rate per 1,000 living, for Stafford 0.23 ; for England and Wales 1.60.

Enteric Fever.

Two cases of Typhoid fever were notified, both of whom made a good recovery. The source of infection could not be ascertained in either.

Paratyphoid B. was diagnosed in a patient admitted from an adjoining County to the General Infirmary, and she was transferred to the Isolation Hospital.

Case rate, for Stafford 0.10 ; for England and Wales 0.04.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal fever and eight cases of Puerperal pyrexia were notified, all recovered.

With regard to facilities for treatment, Dr. F. M. Blumer has been appointed as consultant under the Puerperal fever and Puerperal pyrexia Regulations, bacteriological examinations are provided by the County Council, hospital treatment is available at the General Infirmary, and trained nursing is provided by the District Nursing Association.

The rates for these conditions are best expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to population. When calculated on this basis the rates are : — Stafford, Puerperal fever, 4.51, and Puerperal pyrexia, 18.06 ; and England and Wales Puerperal fever 3.60, and Puerperal pyrexia, 9.44 per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still-births) registered during the year.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-nine cases were notified, of whom three died. Twelve other deaths were due to Pneumonia, but only those due to Primary Pneumonia or Influenzal Pneumonia are notifiable.

Steps are taken to obtain assistance, such as nursing or extra nourishment when it is required. The relief for such necessitous cases has been obtained from the Guild of Social Welfare or from the Public Assistance Committee.

Erysipelas.

There were eight cases, all of whom recovered.

Case rate per 1,000, for Stafford 0.26 ; for England and Wales 0.42.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Two cases were notified, one of whom (who belonged to Rugeley) died.

Dr. F. M. Blumer is appointed by the County Council under the Regulations of 1919, to act as consultant for the Mid-Stafford area, which includes Stafford Borough.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

There was an epidemic of Measles during the first half of the year, but out of 427 known cases there were only two deaths. The Health Visitors made 427 primary visits and 408 revisits, in addition to 15 primary and 7 revisits to cases of Whooping cough.

Every effort is made to bring home to parents the dangerous character of Measles and Whooping cough. In both the school intimations have proved valuable in directing attention to the homes of infants which have been invaded. The Health Visitors are then able to urge that medical attention be obtained at least for these youngest ones in whom the attacks are apt to be most serious. This, of course, can only be done when the school intimation is received soon after the absence of the first member of the family from school.

Bacteriological Work.

The County Laboratory, provided by the Stafford County Council, is situated in Martin Street. It undertakes bacteriological examinations in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Enteric fever, Undulant fever, Cerebro-spinal fever, and Malaria ; and also the Wassermann test for Syphilis. This service is available, without charge, to medical practitioners. All Diphtheria cases at the Isolation Hospital are thus tested for freedom from infection before discharge. It is also desirable that those who have been in close contact with a case of Diphtheria should be tested, in case they are harbouring infection, and arrangements are made to get this done as far as possible. Where necessary, virulence tests are carried out to enable persistent carriers of non-virulent bacilli to be released from unnecessary restrictions.

During the year bacteriological reports were received by the Medical Officer of Health on the following :—

Swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli	...	320
Virulence test (Diphtheria)	... ..	3
Blood examined for Widal reaction	...	19
Faeces	... ..	34
Urine	... ..	19
Wassermann Test	... ..	2
Pus	... ..	18
Cerebro-spinal fluid	... ..	12

Tuberculosis (biological test)	...	...	30
Sputum examined for Tubercle bacilli	...	...	124
Other examinations	...	...	12

These numbers tend to increase year by year, and the great value of this bacteriological service is more and more appreciated by the private doctor as well as by the health department.

I wish to acknowledge my personal debt to Dr. Menton, the County Bacteriologist, for his never failing kindness.

Issues of Diphtheria Antitoxin, etc.

Supplies of Diphtheria antitoxin are available at the public expense for necessitous cases. These are used by medical practitioners for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria or possible Diphtheria, it being of the utmost importance that such treatment should be commenced without waiting for bacteriological confirmation, and so losing valuable time. Few cases of this disease, if any, will fail to do well if given a sufficient dose of antitoxin on the first day of the illness.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is offered free through the Welfare Centre for children under school age, and during the year 62 children were immunised by the Medical Officer of Health. Diphtheria Toxoid Antitoxin Flocules is also provided free for the use of medical practitioners, and there is a gradually increasing demand for it.

259 children were immunised under the School Medical Department's scheme, and of these 220 were Schick tested, 215 of whom proved to be immune.

Disinfection.

A Washington Lyon steam disinfecter is used for bedding, clothing, etc., which have been exposed to infection.

Houses in which there have been cases of Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, etc., are fumigated with formalin vapour or sprayed with formalin solution, and a liquid disinfectant is supplied to the occupier for use in the "spring cleaning" which is advised as a sequel to the fumigation. The disinfectant is supplied in special poison bottles only. No great expense is caused by this service, and it has not been thought wise or necessary to practise greater economy than that which is already observed.

Isolation Hospital.

One hundred and eighteen cases were admitted, classified as follows :—

Disease.	Stafford Borough.	Stafford Rural District.	Total.
Scarlet fever	70	26	96
Diphtheria	7	7	14
Typhoid fever	1	2	3
Paratyphoid B.	1	—	1
Croup	3	—	3
Undulant fever	—	1	1
Total	82	36	118

One case of Diphtheria died, the others made complete recoveries.

My thanks are due to the Matron, Mrs. Home, for the excellent way in which she has carried out her duties.

The great majority of Scarlet fever and Diphtheria cases are treated at the hospital, as there are few houses in the town where efficient isolation would be possible. As a rule, even the provision of a separate bedroom would involve overcrowding in other parts of the house. In certain employments objection would be taken to a worker, living in the same house as the patient, continuing at work. Finally, in most families there is only one adult who can be at home to look after the patient and she is usually the mother with other children to attend to.

The average stay of uncomplicated cases of Scarlet fever is about four weeks, and it has not been considered advisable to reduce this any further.

Having only 28 beds (including 6 on the balconies) to serve the Borough and Rural District, a combined population of 43,746, it is not possible to attempt to admit cases of other diseases, such as Measles and Whooping cough, although a few such would have a much better chance of recovery in hospital.

In accordance with Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, a reorganisation of the Isolation Hospital accommodation in the County is under consideration with a view to the provision of a smaller number of hospitals large enough to employ a resident medical officer and to be recognised as training schools for nurses. It has been hoped that the Stafford Isolation Hospital, being well equipped for its present purpose and favourably situated, could be enlarged

to serve the central area of the County. If this is found to be impossible, the Borough has excellent sites suitable for a new hospital, while its proximity to the services provided by the County Laboratory and the consultant staff of the General Infirmary merit consideration.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified in 1935.

Tuberculosis.

Analysis of the new cases and deaths during the calendar year, 1935 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
5—15	2	—	5	—	—	—	1	—
15—25	2	7	2	3	2	4	—	—
25—35	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—45	3	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
45—55	5	1	—	—	3	3	—	—
55—65	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	17	13	10	7	8	8	4	1

The death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.66 as compared with 0.86 last year.

Year.	Number of deaths.		Rate per 1,000.			New Cases.
	Res.	Non-Res.	Res.	Non-Res.	Total.	
1925	27	5	0.93	0.17	1.10	76
1926	26	5	0.89	0.17	1.06	60
1927	20	4	0.69	0.14	0.83	53
1928	24	6	0.83	0.20	1.03	73
1929	21	5	0.73	0.17	0.90	61
1920	19	8	0.65	0.27	0.92	64
1931	18	3	0.61	0.10	0.71	49
1932	26	9	0.87	0.30	1.17	44
1933	19	2	0.64	0.07	0.71	47
1934	23	3	0.76	0.10	0.86	58
1935	16	5	0.53	0.16	0.69	47
Average for England and Wales (1935)			0.605	0.113	0.718	

The " Balance Sheet " for the Register may be given as follows :—

Number on Register at	Deaths in 1935	... *24
31st Dec., 1934 311	Removals	... .. 5
Notifications in 1935 39	" Recovered "	... .. 23
Unnotified deaths 4	Number on Register	
Transfers 3	at 31st Dec., 1935	306
Returned to district 1		
	358	358

*Includes three deaths attributed to other causes.

NOTIFICATION.—There were four deaths of persons who had not been notified as suffering from Tuberculosis. Two of these were cases of Meningitis, the nature of which was only discovered at post-mortem examination. The other two were diagnosed in hospital shortly before death, and the notifications overlooked by house surgeons who thought they had been notified.

Year.	Number of Un-notified Deaths.	Average interval between notification and Death.
1925	7	18.1 months
1926	2	14.0 "
1927	5	27.2 "
1928	3	16.5 "
1929	5	17.2 "
1930	7	30.1 "
1931	1	16.8 "
1932	9	30.0 "
1933	3	44.0 "
1934	5	42.1 "
1935	4	18.0 "

Thirty-six cases from the Borough of Stafford were admitted as in-patients to the following institutions during 1935 :

Prestwood Sanatorium	... ..	11
Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital	... ..	4
Groundslow Sanatorium	... ..	10
Yarnfield Tuberculosis Hospital	... ..	2
Hinley Children's Sanatorium	... ..	3
Standon Hall	... ..	6

AFTER-CARE.—The Stafford Guild of Social Welfare undertakes this work in the area. An annual grant up to £2 per case relieved is made by the Joint Committee towards the expenses of the After-Care Committee, but it cannot be

too widely known that the primary aim of the work is not to relieve distress amongst the tuberculous but rather to help them to become self-supporting. All cases are submitted to the Committee by the Tuberculosis Officer and the following is a brief summary of the main objects of the work :—

1. To allay any fears that may exist as to the danger of infection in early cases, subject to the patient taking reasonable precautions.
2. Finding suitable employment and providing clothing and food in necessitous cases.
3. The provision of beds and bedding to enable patients to sleep alone.
4. When necessary to assist the families of patients who are under treatment in residential institutions.
5. To take a general interest in the welfare of cases submitted to their care, and if necessary to visit them at their own homes. These visits are not intended to take the place of the visits paid by the Health Visitors appointed by the Council.

HEALTH VISITING.—The Health Visitors have paid 40 primary visits to tuberculous persons on notification and 720 subsequent visits. Many are still in great need of better housing, and even infectious cases cannot always arrange to sleep alone.

The sleeping accommodation of 257 of the cases on the register was as follows :—

Separate bedroom.	Separate bed (share room).	Share bed.
92 (35.8%)	47 (18.3%)	115 (44.7%)

while 3, or 1.2%, occupied shelters in the open air.

The majority of cases who share a bed are married persons, and they are often unwilling to see the need for a change, though there are still some whose difficulty is the provision of the necessary beds. Those sharing a room are usually in need of better housing accommodation. During the year twelve such families removed into Corporation houses.

Shelters have been provided by the Joint Committee for use by patients residing in the area, but many of the worst cases are not well enough to sleep outside, and they are not always willing to be removed to Hospital, even when accommodation is available. There is no doubt that patients do much better in shelters than when they sleep in ill-ventilated rooms, but it requires a considerable amount of determination to persevere with the treatment, especially during the winter months.

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925,
and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.**

No action was necessary under either of these provisions, the former of which relates to tuberculous employees in the milk trade and the latter to compulsory removal of infectious cases to hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births Acts.

443 births were notified (420 by midwives, 12 by doctors, and 11 by parents). Fourteen other births were registered, making 457 births taking place in the borough during the year. Of this total 97% were notified in accordance with the above Acts.

Health Visiting.

The following is a summary of visits in regard to Infant Welfare :—

BIRTHS.

Primary visits	...	...	...	...	410
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	1202

ANTE-NATAL VISITS.

Primary	...	...	...	...	99
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	96
Visits to older children (1—5)	...	...	...	...	3505
Inquiries into infant deaths	...	...	...	...	10
Inquiries into still births	...	...	...	...	9
Unclassified visits	...	...	...	...	83

It will be seen that the great majority of the births are visited, and that the older children (1—5) receive their share of attention too.

Children Act, 1908, and Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

On Register, 1st January	Removals	...	...	4
1935	Adopted	...	...	0
New cases	Over nine years	...	...	0
	On Register, 31st Dec-			
	ember, 1935	...	...	14
				—
				18
				—

The number of visits during the year was 58.

Infant Welfare Centre.

The Centre is held at the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, and is open from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. It has been well attended, and the numbers continue to be maintained in spite of the falling birth rate.

For normal children the attendances recommended to mothers are :—

Weekly during the first year ; monthly during the second year ; and at least once a quarter afterwards, until the child begins to attend school.

ANTE-NATAL CARE.—In order to ensure that, as far as possible, every expectant mother shall be seen by the doctor who will be called in if required at the confinement, the following scheme has been submitted for the approval of the Minister of Health.

- (a) That a fee of 5s. per consultation be offered to doctors for each of the following :—
 - (1) A general examination early in pregnancy.
 - (2) A full obstetrical examination at the 7th or 8th month.
 - (3) A post-natal examination.in return for appropriate reports on forms to be provided.
- (b) The scheme to apply only to mothers who are not engaging a doctor to attend them.
- (c) In the case of insured women, already entitled to ante-natal care, a fee of 2s. 6d. will be paid for each report.
- (d) That midwives be invited to co-operate by sending their patients to doctors.

This scheme will replace the existing Ante-natal Centre.

The services of Dr. C. E. M. Blumer, as obstetrical consultant, will continue to be available to medical practitioners for cases where difficulties or complications arise during pregnancy or at or after confinement.

The death of 8 infants within one month of birth, to which number must be added 14 still births shows that there is scope for saving infant life in this work as well as for the care of the mother during pregnancy.

Sterilized maternity outfits are on sale at cost price (3s. and 6s.), and may be paid for by instalments. The Maternity Committee of the Guild of Social Welfare have kindly assisted in providing these for necessitous cases.

Number of consultation days	...	...	...	97
New cases registered (under 1 year)	...	...	...	204
New cases registered (1 to 5 years)	...	...	...	10
Total attendances (by children under 1 year)	...	...	...	3176
Total attendances (by children, 1 to 5 years)	...	...	...	4129
Average attendance per week (two sessions)	...	...	...	155
Ante-natal consultations :—				
New cases registered	...	...	...	50
Total attendances	...	...	...	59

Thanks are due to the members of the Maternity Committee of the Guild of Social Welfare for regular assistance on Centre days, an indispensable help in the running of the Centre, also for the loan of Maternity Bags to necessitous cases, to the Mayor's Fund for clothing for the mothers and children, and to the Guild's Boot Fund for boots for children under school age.

The following additional schemes have been commenced since the end of 1934 :—

HOME HELPS.—A small panel of women has been approved by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to act as home helps. They may be engaged through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre or 5, Martin Street. A graduated scale of charges has been drawn up, based on the family income, and these fees must be paid at least one month before the home help is required. Ten cases were so assisted during 1935.

COMPENSATION TO MIDWIVES FOR LOSS OF CASES.—When a patient sent by a midwife for Ante-natal care is admitted to a hospital or home for her confinement on the advice of the doctor, a sum of 10s. will be paid to the midwife by the Committee as compensation for the loss of the case.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—The County Health Visiting Committee have agreed to provide dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age who attend the Welfare Centre. The terms agreed upon will be reviewed after twelve months working of the scheme.

Mr. W. H. Jones, the County Dental Officer, has kindly supplied me with the following report :—

“ During 1935 we saw 8 mothers and 45 children under school age at the Stafford Clinic. The work for the mothers included 23 extractions of permanent teeth, 2 dressings, and the fitting of a complete set of artificial dentures. Three cases were still under treatment at the end of the year. The

children required 68 extractions of temporary teeth, one lancing to assist eruption, and 23 miscellaneous dressings."

Baby Day.

Miss Suffield contributes the following account:—

The Baby Day Celebrations were held during the last week in June.

As in former years a circular letter was sent to the clergy and ministers of religion inviting their co-operation by preaching special sermons on Sunday, June 23rd.

The chemists and drapers gave special displays of mothers' and children's requirements. These displays add to the interest of Baby Week, being both educational and spectacular.

The Welfare Centre was open to the public on Monday, June 24th. The pram parade prizes were on view, and were greatly admired.

We were again indebted to Messrs. Brookfield's Successors for loan of a canopy for perambulator, and to Mrs. Drury for her assistance in decorating it. The perambulator was on view at the Welfare Centre from three to four weeks, and was of great assistance to mothers making their first attempt in this form of decoration.

A garden party was organised by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to take place at the Victoria Pleasure Grounds on Wednesday, June 26th. Owing to heavy rain on the previous night it was decided that the celebration should take place at the Market Hall. As the weather turned out favourable the Decorated Pram Parade took place as usual.

The decorated perambulators were judged at the Market Hall, and the exhibits were as numerous and charming as ever. Popular decorative colours appeared to be red, white and blue, in honour of the Jubilee Celebrations.

The Parade was marshalled by Alderman Owen and Mr. Pilliner, and was headed by the Stafford Town Band. Then came a carriage conveying the Mayor (Alderman F. W. Pitt, J.P.), the Mayoress, Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore, and the Town Clerk. This was followed by Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, the Judges, and Competitors.

The route, which appeared to be lined by the entire feminine population of the town, was by way of Crabbery Street, Greengate Street, Newport Road, and Victoria Road.

Arriving at the Market Hall the guests were welcomed by Councillor Adamson (Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee), and tea was very quickly served by

Councillors Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Turney, and a band of willing helpers.

His Worship The Mayor, presented Silver Cups and Post Office savings books to children born on Jubilee Day. There were six recipients, four girls and two boys.

The Pram Parade prizes and attendance prizes were presented by the Mayoress and the Mothercraft Certificates by the Deputy Mayoress (Councillor Mrs. Robinson).

Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore presented the Blumer Shield and Medals. The judging for this competition took place on June 14th. Dr. McCloskey kindly acted as adjudicator.

The attendance prizes were given by the Mayor, Councillor Adamson, Mrs. Aspin, Councillor Mrs. South, J.P., Councillor Miss Westhead, and Mrs. Taylor.

The band played selections of music until 6 p.m.

Free Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants.

This has been continued throughout the year, and in spite of the fall in unemployment, has been of great value in enabling these mothers to feed their children satisfactorily. Number of applications received, 117. Of these 104 were granted and thirteen refused. The numbers on the list were 82 on January 1st and 57 on December 31st.

Every effort is made to encourage breast feeding. Even in those cases where it has already been given up, a fresh start is often made with success. Of 375 children who completed the age of nine months during 1935 :—

82% were breast fed at the first visit,
58% were breast fed at the end of three months, and
44% were breast fed for over six months, while
18% were artificially fed at first visit.

Orthopædic Treatment.

The Medical Officer is authorised to send any cases attending the Centre, who require orthopædic treatment, to the Clinic in Stafford, and during the year 17 benefitted by this. The cases comprised congenital deformities (8), birth injuries (5), and rickets (4).

Maternity Beds.

In view of the extension of the General Infirmary, several conversations took place between representatives of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and the Infirmary

to see whether any scheme for the inclusion of maternity beds was feasible, but it was felt that it was not desirable to proceed on these lines.

If the existing Isolation Hospital is superseded, an opportunity will arise to utilise those buildings as a maternity home, including a ward for ailing babies. The site is a very pleasant one, and a long felt want might be met at a very reasonable cost.

Maternal Mortality.

The investigation of maternal deaths is carried out by the M.O.H. under a scheme, organised by the County M.O.H., which secures the co-operation of the Inspectors of Midwives, who also inquire into cases of Puerperal fever and Puerperal pyrexia.

Co-ordination with the School Medical Service.

Abnormal children are, as far as possible, reported to the School Medical Department on reaching school age.

Information with regard to houses infected with Measles and Whooping cough is largely derived from reports received from the school teachers by arrangement with the School Medical Department, and any homes where there are children under five are visited by one of the Health Visitors.



